

Over a year ago, we intercepted a message Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a terrorist in Iraq, sent to Osama bin Laden. In the message, al-Zarqawi said, "The future has become frightening" for terrorists because democracy has gained a foothold in Iraq. He told Osama bin Laden, "Democracy is coming and there will be no excuse thereafter for the attacks."

Iraq has become the proving ground of our commitment to the war on terror. If we waver, our enemies will read our hesitation as victory. If we do not fight the terrorists abroad, we will be forced to fight them on our shores.

We must remain united behind our troops and committed to this mission. I urge the Senate to continue to support the strategy President Bush outlined last night.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Alaska. He has been such a strong leader as chairman of the Appropriations Committee and chairman of the Defense Appropriations Committee as well. No one knows better how the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan are performing their duties and how this administration has stepped up to the plate to make sure they have what they need to do the job. He has been to Iraq and Afghanistan. He has visited the troops, as have I, and his words were very helpful in talking to the American people about this subject.

Mr. President, as we begin this day, we are also going to have a very important amendment that will help our veterans be able to have the service they need as they are coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as many of the veterans of previous wars who are now in the Veterans' Administration system.

Secretary Jim Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, came to the Congress just this past week and said that there has been a surge in the use of veterans facilities that has caused the ability to determine what will be needed in the future to be skewed. All of the patterns of the past are now not in place for use today because we have more veterans coming into the system. That is not a bad thing.

We owe the veterans the care they thought they would receive when they entered the military service and which they so richly deserve. Whether they fought in a war or not, they were there to serve, and many of them did fight in wars—brutal wars. The one we are in now is a brutal war. There are actually more injuries and fewer deaths in the kind of war that we are fighting. That means that many people are coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan injured.

Our President has said unequivocally that we are going to take care of those people who have served, and we are going to treat their injuries because they deserve to have that treatment. So Secretary Nicholson has come to us and asked for an emergency appropri-

ation. We are going to give Secretary Nicholson, of course, an emergency appropriation.

Senator MURRAY and Senator BYRD are working on an amendment. I have a second-degree amendment with Senators SANTORUM, KYL, and CRAIG. It is a leadership amendment because we put it together with the White House, the OMB, and the Veterans Affairs Department, to try to get the numbers. We wanted to know what we will need for this year, going into next year.

I am chairman of the Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee. I have worked with Senator CRAIG, who is the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, which authorizes the policies that affect veterans. We have put together a second-degree amendment to Senator MURRAY's and Senator BYRD's amendment that will put \$1.5 billion into the system immediately, and it will be there until it is spent. It will take us into the next fiscal year, because we are not going to scrimp on serving our veterans. We need more prostheses; we need improved ability to help people who have lost arms or legs, or who have been burned. We are going to provide that help, Mr. President, and our amendment is going to be a consensus that will come together with everybody at the table.

We are going to do the right thing by our veterans with an emergency appropriation that will come to the Senate floor this afternoon. It will be put on the Interior appropriations bill. We worked with Senator BURNS and his staff to put this emergency in at the first possible vehicle, and the first vehicle is on the Senate floor today. We just got the numbers this week. That is why we are going to immediately put in force an emergency appropriation that will assure that our Veterans' Administration has the funds it needs to treat these veterans. It also is going to assure that we don't take from the building funds because we know there are many veterans facilities in the process of being built or promised to be built. We need more veterans facilities, not fewer. So taking from maintenance accounts or capital accounts didn't seem like the right thing to do.

We worked together with the Veterans' Administration, with the leadership of our President, with Democrats and Republicans, to come up with the right numbers to put it on the first bill that will go through the Senate this week. We hope the House will work with us to fund this appropriation and that nothing will be, in any way, delayed or denied to a veteran, either one coming back from Iraq or one coming back from Afghanistan or from anywhere in the world, or a veteran who has served previously.

Mr. President, I so appreciate the President's speech last night. I appreciate that he gave his speech at Fort Bragg, NC, in front of those men and women serving our country in the most noble way. I appreciate that the President said we hope more people will vol-

unteer for the Army. We need more volunteers right now. We are ramping up the end strength of the Army by 30,000. This is part of our ongoing effort to revamp the Army. The Army is doing a fabulous job in Iraq. So are the Marines. The Navy and the Air Force are helping. But we need to have America come together.

I was so pleased that the President asked Americans to do something next week, on July 4, Independence Day. He asked every American to reach out to a family of someone serving today in Iraq or Afghanistan. I know the people of America will respond. I know they will go to that Web site and start the process of finding out how they can do more to give those young men and women with boots on the ground overseas fighting terror the opportunity to talk to their folks back home, to talk to their families.

The President is taking the lead, and the Senate—Republicans and Democrats—must come together to lead our country to do the right thing in the war on terror.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we may proceed with a unanimous-consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—BILLS DISCHARGED

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration, and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following postal naming bills en bloc: S. 571, S. 775, S. 904, H.R. 120, H.R. 289, H.R. 324, H.R. 504, H.R. 627, H.R. 1001, H.R. 1072, H.R. 1082, H.R. 1236, H.R. 1460, H.R. 1524, H.R. 1542, and H.R. 2326.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that these bills be read the third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and that any statements relating to the bills be printed at this point in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CONGRESSWOMAN SHIRLEY A. CHISHOLM POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (S. 571) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1915 Fulton Street in Brooklyn, New York, as the "Congresswoman Shirley A. Chisholm Post Office Building" was read the third time and passed, as follows:

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. CONGRESSWOMAN SHIRLEY A. CHISHOLM POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1915